



## ♦ Vegetables and Melons

Cumulative information for vegetables and melons were again modified for the 2010 year because of confidentiality concerns. The following comments and data comparison will be for only the selected crops published on the following two pages.

The farm gate value for Hawaii's selected vegetables and melons is estimated at \$24.9 million in 2010, up 25 percent or \$5.0 million from the 2009 amount for the same 13 crops. Cumulative production for these 13 selected vegetables and melons was 39.6 million pounds, up 22 percent from 2009.

Dry conditions prevailed during most of the year, especially on the leeward slopes of all islands. Irrigation, heavy at times, was required to maintain crop growth and development.



The top volume-producing published vegetable crop during 2010 was sweet potatoes whose estimated production was 12.6 million pounds, up 4.3 million pounds or 52 percent above the previous year. Head cabbage was the second largest published vegetable volume crop estimated at 10.2 million pounds up 17 percent or 1.5 million pounds from the 2009 crop. The largest volume gain measured in percent was lettuce which increased by 100 percent in 2010 compared to the prior year. Romaine lettuce volume placed second in percent increase at 75 percent.

The leading farm gate value of the published vegetables was estimated for sweet potatoes at \$6.5 million up \$1.1 million or 20 percent from the previous year. Lettuce placed second in farm gate value at \$3.6 million up \$2.9 million or 385 percent compared to 2009 season. Higher lettuce prices and acreage were the main contributors for this increase.

## ♦ Taro

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro production at 3.9 million pounds in 2010, down 3 percent from 2009's estimate of 4.0 million pounds. The farm price increased 6 percent to an average of 64.5 cents per pound, while the value of sales increased 3 percent from 2009 to \$2.5 million.

